

# The 2005 Highlights

ISSN 1488-5336

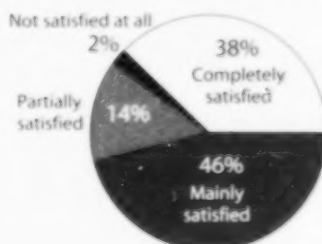
## THE SURVEY

The BC College and Institute Student Outcomes (CISO) Survey is an annual province-wide survey conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and from BC's public colleges, university colleges, and institutes. For the 2005 survey, 17,671 former students were interviewed by telephone, 9–20 months after they left their post-secondary programs. They were asked to evaluate many aspects of their educational experience and to talk about their employment outcomes, further education, and personal development. Highlights from that survey are presented here.

## SATISFIED WITH EDUCATION

The former students who were surveyed were asked if they were satisfied with the education they received from their college, university college, or institute programs—84 percent said they were completely or mainly satisfied.

Overall satisfaction with education



Just under two-thirds (63 percent) of the former students surveyed were enrolled in Applied (3 to 36 month) programs, programs which are designed to lead to employment

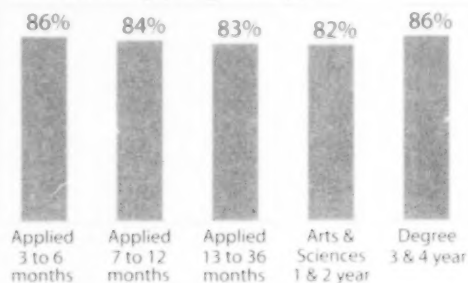
in a specific field. About a quarter (26 percent) were in Arts and Sciences (1 & 2 year) programs, which usually lead to further studies, and a smaller portion (11 percent) were in 3 & 4 year programs: baccalaureate, upper level, or post-degree.

Students from short-term applied programs and those from degree programs (the longest) were the most likely to say they were completely or mainly satisfied. Former Arts and Sciences (1 & 2 year) students were the least likely to say they were satisfied, although the difference is only a few percentage points.

## IN THE HIGHLIGHTS

- 84% of the former students surveyed were completely or mainly satisfied with their education
- 24% entered their college, university college, or institute programs with a prior post-secondary credential
- 15% of survey respondents took trades training programs
- 47% of all former students surveyed pursued further education
- 84% of respondents were in the labour force
- 53% of those surveyed borrowed funds for their studies

Former students' satisfaction with their education by program type



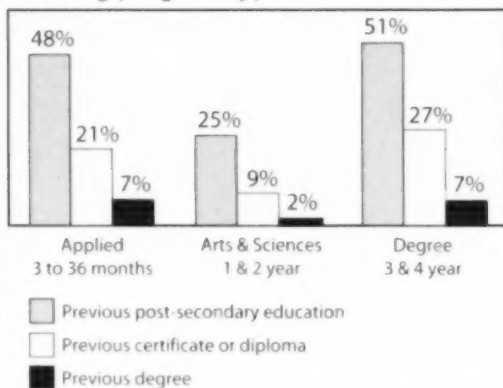
## FURTHER EDUCATION

### PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Many of the survey respondents (42 percent overall) said they had had some previous post-secondary education before they enrolled in their college, university college, or institute programs.

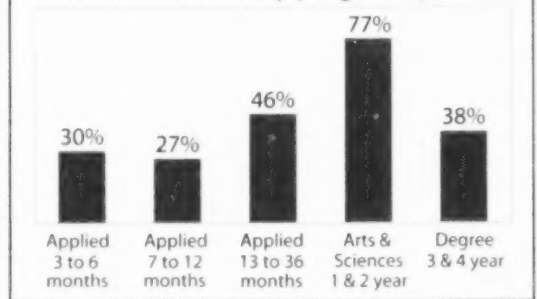
In fact, 24 percent of respondents had a previous credential when they enrolled. A significant number had a previous diploma or certificate, while a smaller percentage had a degree. Those entering degree (3 & 4 year) programs were most likely to have had previous post-secondary education—many of those students would have come from Arts and Sciences (1 & 2 year) programs.

Previous post-secondary education by entering program type



Almost half (47 percent) of all former students surveyed went on to take some form of further education—40 percent were still studying at the time of the survey. Former Arts and Sciences (1 & 2 year) students were the most likely to continue their studies, since students from these programs very often transfer into baccalaureate programs.

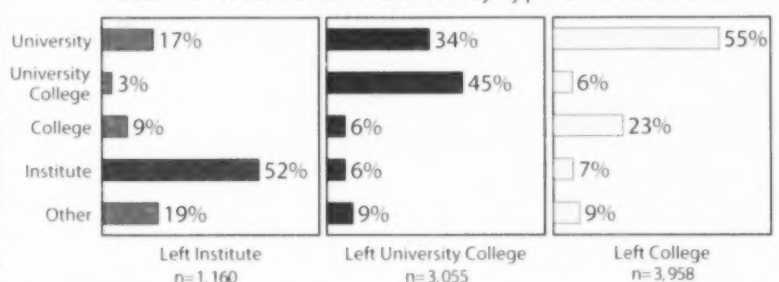
Further education by program type



### TRANSFER DESTINATIONS

Of the former students who decided to go on to further education, 27 percent started a different program at their original institution, and 73 percent transferred to a different institution. Many former students returned to the same type of institution for further studies; for example, by far the largest proportion of respondents who left institutes returned to institutes to continue studying.

Destination for further studies by type of institution left



On the other hand, although many college students returned to colleges to continue their studies, well over half of the former college students who took further studies did so at universities.

### TRADES TRAINING

Fifteen percent of survey respondents took trades training programs; that is, they took programs that were entry-level trades training or upgrading, but were not apprenticeship programs. At the time of the survey, most of the former



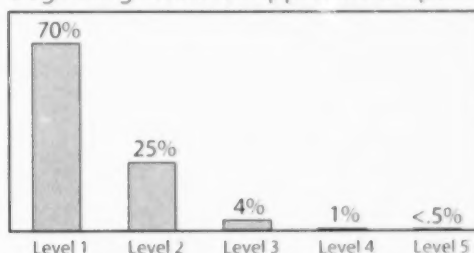
## TRADES TRAINING, CONT.

trades training students were employed (83 percent), and over three-quarters (77 percent) of these employed former students said their job was very or somewhat related to their training.

After leaving their programs, half of the former trades training students tried to obtain sponsorship as apprentices. Over two-thirds (69 percent) of those who tried got an apprenticeship—about 32 percent of those who took trades training programs. Of those former trades students who started an apprenticeship, close to a third began above Level 1.

Three-quarters of those who got apprenticeships said they had been very well or well prepared for their apprenticeship training by their trades programs.

Beginning levels for apprenticeships

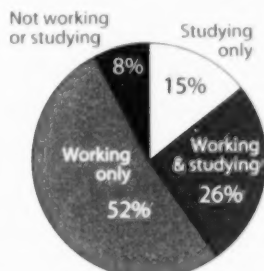


## LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

At the time of the survey, 78 percent of all survey respondents were employed. Most respondents (84 percent) were in the labour force; that is, working or looking for a job. Over a quarter of all the former students surveyed were continuing their studies while they worked.

Compared with those who were "working and studying," respondents who were "working only" were much more likely to be employed full-time and to say they were in a training-related position.

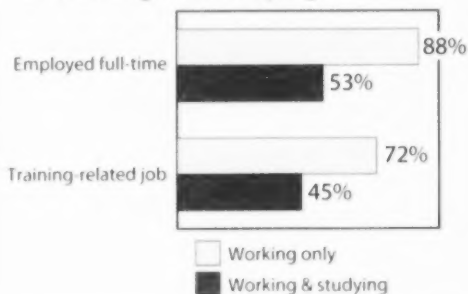
Activity at the time of the survey



## KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED

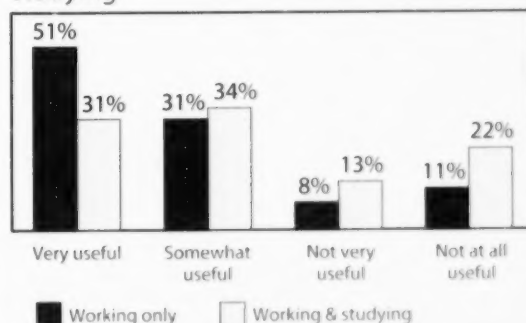
The majority of employed former students said they found the knowledge and skills they gained in their programs to be very or somewhat useful in performing their jobs. The respondents who were "working and studying" at the time of the survey were less likely than those who were "working only" to give high ratings, reflecting the fact that they were less likely to be in training-related positions.

Employed full-time and in a training-related job, by working only or working and studying



The unemployment rate—the percentage of respondents in the labour force who had not found a job—was 7.3 percent.

The usefulness of knowledge and skills gained, by working only or working and studying



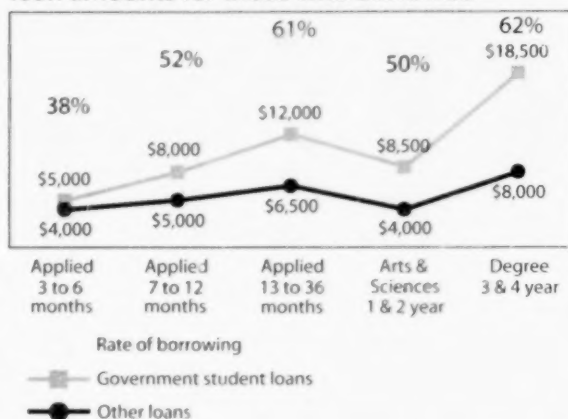
## STUDENT BORROWING

Half of all the CISO survey respondents were asked some questions about how they financed their studies. Just over half (53 percent) of those who responded had borrowed—either government student loans or loans from other sources—to fund their college, university college, or institute programs.

About a third (35 percent) of those asked had received government student loans while studying. The median amount they borrowed was \$10,000. Respondents were also asked if they had other debt, from sources such as personal bank loans, loans from family, or credit card loans—28 percent said yes. The median amount borrowed from these other sources was \$5,000. There was some overlap: 10 percent of respondents had government student loans *and* loans from other sources.

Borrowing and amount of loan are directly related to the length of program taken. Students in longer programs were more likely to borrow to complete their studies and to borrow larger amounts.

Rates of borrowing by program and median loan amounts for those who borrowed



## STUDENT SERVICES

Institutions provide services to support students, from registration, through program selection, to employment or further studies. On alternate years, the CISO survey asks half of the former students surveyed to rate their institutions' services and facilities.

Since 2003, ratings of very good or good for program advising, learning support services (tutoring, mentoring), and information and services on the institution's website have gone up, although the differences are not great. Of particular interest is that, in 2005, a higher percentage of respondents used their institutions' websites.

Student services rated in 2003 and 2005



## STUDENT OUTCOMES INFORMATION

The results of the BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey are used by the institutions to improve programs and services. The Ministry of Advanced Education uses the information for post-secondary policy development and accountability. Students, parents, and the general public can view students' outcomes through *Education Planner* (formerly *Opening Doors*) at [www.educationplanner.bc.ca](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca), to help them make informed post secondary education choices.

For more information on BC student outcomes, please see <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/> or visit the institutional research department of your college, university college, or institute.